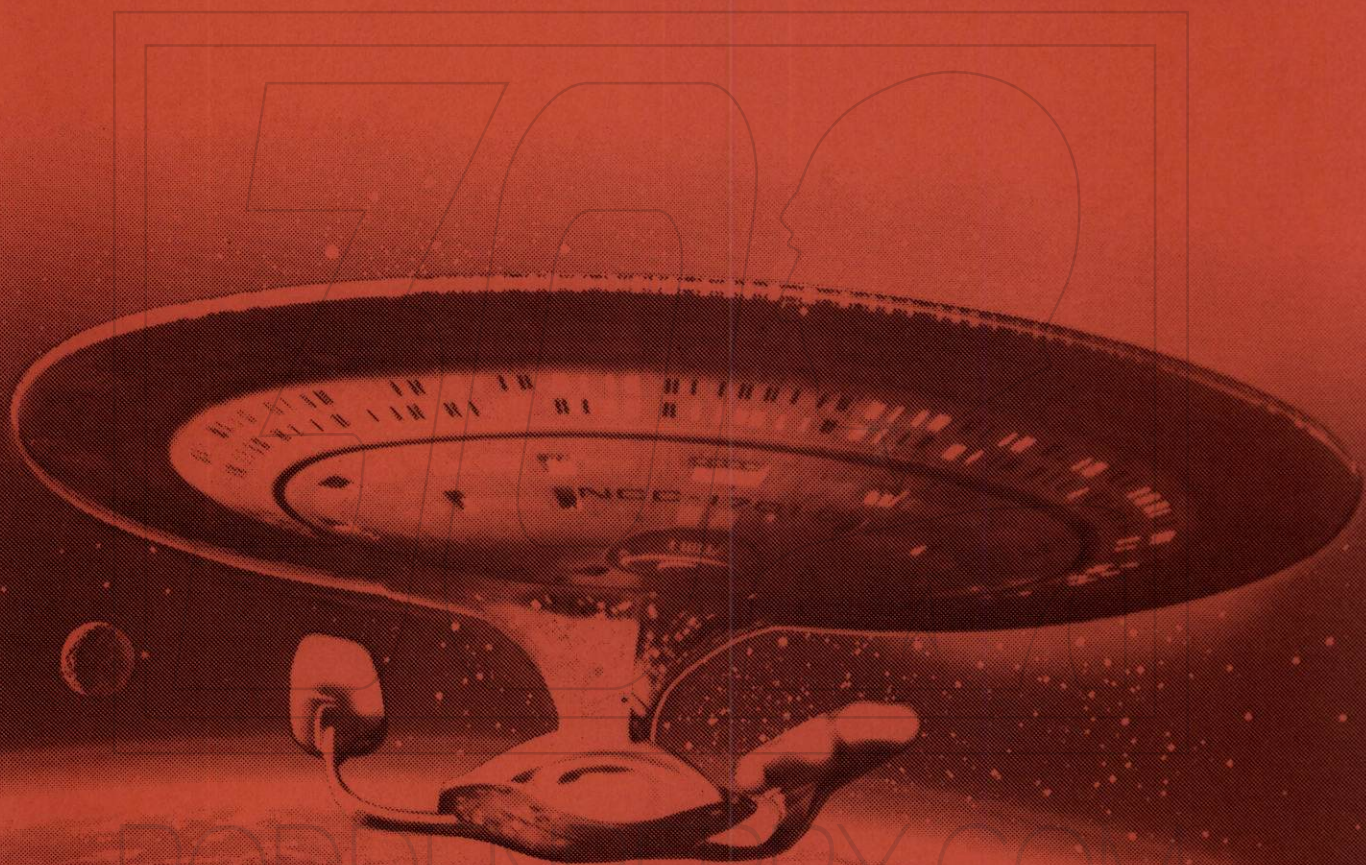


STAR TREK

THE NEXT GENERATION



**"The Best of
Both Worlds"**



A Paramount Communications Company

FINAL DRAFT

APRIL 6, 1990

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

REVISED

04/09/90 be
04/10/90 pk
04/10/90 yw
04/11/90 gn
04/11/90 gd
*04/17/90 bf

"The Best of Both Worlds"

#40273-174



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FINAL DRAFT

APRIL 6, 1990

STAR TREK: "Best of Both Worlds" - REV. 4/6/90 - CAST

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"The Best of Both Worlds"

CAST

PICARD

ADMIRAL HANSON

RIKER

LT. COMMANDER SHELBY

DATA

BORG LEADER

BEVERLY

PICARD/BORG

TROI

GEORDI

WORF

WESLEY

Non-Speaking

SEVERAL BORG

GUINAN

O'BRIEN

Non-Speaking

SUPERNUMERARIES

TECHNICIAN

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STAR TREK: "Best of Both Worlds" - REV. 4/6/90 - SETS

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"The Best of Both Worlds"

SETS

INTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE
MAIN BRIDGE
CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM
OBSERVATION LOUNGE
TURBOLIFT
CORRIDOR
TRANSPORTER ROOM
TEN FORWARD
MAIN ENGINEERING
PICARD'S QUARTERS
RIKER'S QUARTERS
SHELBY'S QUARTERS

BORG SHIP
INTERIOR CHAMBER

EXTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE
JOURET FOUR SURFACE
BORG SHIP

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STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"The Best of Both Worlds"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

1

Leaving warp as it approaches a planet.

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's log, Stardate 43994.1.
The Enterprise has arrived at
Jouret Four in response to a
distress signal from one of the
Federation's outermost colonies.

2 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM (OPTICAL)

2

Riker enters, meets Geordi, Data and Worf. O'Brien at
the console.

RIKER

(to Worf)

Anything from the surface?

WORF

Nossir. There have been no
communications from the colony
for over twelve hours.

RIKER

Sensors picking up any signs of
life?

WORF

None.

Riker frowns. Anticipating the question --

O'BRIEN

The surface environment is safe
for transport, Commander.

Riker acknowledges as they move into transport
position... he nods to the technician and they
DEMATERIALIZE.

3 EXT. PLANET SURFACE - DAY

3

Fairly close so we have no clear bearings yet... the Away Team reacts to what they see... pulling back slowly.

RIKER
(keying insignia)
Mister O'Brien, verify these are
accurate coordinates for New
Providence colony.

O'BRIEN'S COM VOICE
Coordinates verified, sir. You're
at the center of town.

4 EXT. PLANET SURFACE - WIDE - DAY (MATTE SHOT)

4

To see the Away Team is standing on an empty site... where the colony should be, there is now a shallow depression... as though it has been scooped out and taken away.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

5 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL) 5

In orbit. Another starship, transport class, has joined them.

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's log, Stardate 43997.6.
Admiral Hanson and Lieutenant
Commander Shelby of Starfleet
Tactical have arrived to review
the disappearance of New
Providence colony. No sign
remains of the nine hundred
inhabitants.

6 INT. CAPT. READY ROOM 6

Picard, Riker, Hanson - fifties, high ranking, hard driving - and Shelby. She is late twenties, very beautiful, energetic, extremely motivated and ambitious. The mood is somber.

HANSON

The truth is... hell, we're not ready. We've known they were coming for over a year... we've thrown every resource we've got into this but still...

RIKER

Then, you're convinced it is the Borg...?

SHELBY

That's what I'm here to find out. The initial descriptions of these surface conditions are almost identical to your reports from system J-two-five.

PICARD

(acknowledges)

Mister Riker wrote those reports... he agrees with you.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

HANSON
(setting protocol)
Commander Shelby took over Borg tactical analysis six months ago. I've learned to give her a wide latitude when I want to get things done... That's how I intend to operate here.

*
*

It is clear that she's in charge as far as the Admiral is concerned.

SHELBY
My priority has been to develop some kind, any kind of defense strategy...

RIKER
Obviously nothing we have now can stop them.

SHELBY
(acknowledges)
We've been designing new weapons... but they're still on the drawing board.

HANSON
We expected much more lead time. Your encounter with the Borg was over seven thousand light years away...

*

PICARD
If this is the Borg, it would indicate they have a source of power far superior to our own...

*
*
*

SHELBY
I'd like to see the colony site as soon as possible, Captain.

RIKER
It'll be night at the site in thirty minutes. We've scheduled an Away Team for dawn.

*

PICARD
(to Riker)
Why don't you show the commander to her quarters...

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: (2)

6

Riker rises to escort her to the door...

RIKER

It's our poker night, Admiral.
There's always an open seat for
you...

*
*
*
*

HANSON

(would love to, but...)
Next time, Commander. Your
Captain and I have a lot to cover.
But rumor has it that Commander
Shelby's played a hand or two...

*
*
*
*
*

Riker reacts, exchanges a look with Shelby who grins
as they EXIT. Hanson smiles. After the door closes...

HANSON

Keep your eye on her, Jean-Luc.
One impressive young lady...

Picard grins, obviously has a special affection for
this particular admiral.

PICARD

You seem rather taken with her,
J.P.

HANSON

Just an old man's fantasies. When
Shelby came into tactical, every
damned Admiral's uncle had a take
on this Borg business... she cut
through it, put us on track.

Picard moves to a teapot, pouring...

PICARD

Earl Grey?

HANSON

Four sugars.

(beat)

She'd make you a hell of a first
officer.

*

Picard raises an eyebrow...

PICARD

I already have a hell of a first
officer.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: (3)

6

HANSON

Don't tell me he's gonna pass up
another commission?

PICARD

One's available?

HANSON

The Melbourne. It's his if he
wants it. Hasn't he told you?

Picard sighs, shakes his head, no... resigned to the
inevitable.

PICARD

Well, I guess I knew this day
would have to come... he'll make
a fine Captain, J.P.

HANSON

You may want to tell him that.

(off Picard's look)

We're still waiting for his
decision. Hell, this is the third
time we've pulled out the
Captain's chair for Riker. He
just won't sit down. And I'll
tell you something -- there are
a lot of young hot shots like
Shelby on their way up. Riker
could suddenly look like he's
standing still next to them. He's
hurting his career by staying put.
If I were you, I'd kick him in
the rear end for his own good.

*

As he drinks again, Picard reacts and...

7 INT. CORRIDOR

7

Riker moving with Shelby.

SHELBY

We know the Borg have no interest
in power or political conquest...

RIKER

(acknowledges)

They identify what's useful to
them, then consume it. Or try
to at least...

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

At her quarters, they pause...

*

SHELBY

But here's the question -- after they take what they want... what happens to the rest?

(off his look)

There has to be some evidence... residue... something that tells us they've been here.

*

*

8 INT. SHELBY'S QUARTERS - CONTINUOUS

8

As the door slides open and they ENTER.

SHELBY

I don't know exactly what I'm looking for... but we've tested the sections of the Enterprise's hull that were damaged by the Borg. There were some unusual magnetic-resonance traces...

RIKER

A Borg footprint?

SHELBY

That's my theory. I'll see if it holds up tomorrow.

(beat)

I've reviewed your personnel... I'll be assigning Mister La Forge and Mister Data to accompany me on the Away Team...

Riker barely reacts... isn't prepared to allow her to make crew assignments...

RIKER

I've... already assigned them to the Away Team, Commander. And I'll be with you as well.

A quick awkwardness.

SHELBY

(smiles)

Of course. I appreciate any assistance you can offer.

She measures him for a beat. Examining the quarters---

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

SHELBY

Tell me, something, Commander...
is serving aboard the Enterprise
as extraordinary an experience
as I've heard?

RIKER

Every bit of it.

SHELBY

Good.

(intimately sharing a
secret)

Because I intend to convince
Captain Picard that I'm the right
choice for the job.

RIKER

(beat)

Job? Which job...?

SHELBY

Yours, of course.

(off his look,
'embarrassed')

I'm sorry... I heard you were
leaving.

And she's very good -- it could be taken as an innocent
faux pas by a lesser man, but Riker knows a fishing
expedition when he sees one... their eyes connect, he
won't bite...

RIKER

If I am... I'm sure you'll be the
first to know, Commander.

(beat)

Poker's at seventeen hundred
hours, my quarters, deck eight...

He EXITS. Hold just a beat on her reaction and...

8A INT. RIKER'S QUARTERS - POKER TABLE

8A

Troi is the dealer, Wesley, Geordi, Riker, Data,
Shelby... five card stud... four cards have been dealt.

DATA

I will buy another card,
Counselor.

(CONTINUED)

8A CONTINUED:

8A

Throws a pair of chips in...

WESLEY
Got another King in the hole,
Data?

DATA
I am afraid I cannot answer that
Wesley. And as you are a newcomer
to the game, may I say it is
inappropriate to ask.

Troi deals Data his last card.

TROI
No help there.

GEORDI
(bad night)
Fold. Again.

WESLEY
I'm in.

Throws in his chips. His card is a third jack.

TROI
Three jacks looking back for the
handsome young ensign.

Reactions around the table. Data folds.

GEORDI
Beginners luck.

Shelby puts her chips out... gets a worthless card.

TROI
Pair of deuces stands.

Riker throws in his chips... gets a card that continues
his straight flush... reactions.

TROI
Possible flush, possible straight
flush. The bet is yours, Mister
Crusher.

Wes looks nervously at Riker.

WESLEY
I'm in for ten...

(CONTINUED)

8A CONTINUED: (2)

8A

He throws in a pair of chips. Shelby studies Wes carefully... and then throws in her two chips to stay in. But the tension is clearly between Riker and Wesley. Riker gives him his best poker face.

RIKER
(to Wes)
Time to put on the long pants,
Wes. I'll see your ten. And
raise you a hundred.

GEORDI
He's got the straight flush.

DATA
Not necessarily. Commander Riker
may be bluffing, Wesley.

Wes studies Riker's face. Breaks...

WESLEY
I don't think so. I fold.

GEORDI
(groans)
With three jacks?
(shakes his head)
Wesley, you may get straight A's
in school, but you've still got
a little to learn about poker...

And so the attention turns to Shelby... who looks at Riker and they look at each other and after a long look beat...

SHELBY
I've only got two pair, Commander.
But I've got to see that blind
card. I'll call.

She puts in her chips. Riker blinks... looks down at his card... turns it over. It busts his straight flush. He's bluffing. Reactions. Wesley groans, hangs his head.

GEORDI
(delighted)
You got him!

Riker and Shelby's eyes meet. She collects the winnings.

*

9 OMITTED

9

10 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

10

In orbit. The other ship alongside.

11 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

11

O'Brien at the controls as Riker and Geordi arrive together... Geordi carrying a work kit...

RIKER

Mister Data and our guest appear to be tardy...

O'BRIEN

Sir, Commander Shelby and Data beamed down to the planet surface an hour ago...

RIKER

(reacts, angry)
On whose authority?

O'BRIEN

(blinks)
On... hers, sir.

Riker exchanges a look with Geordi as they get in position on the Transporter...

12 EXT. PLANET SURFACE - DAWN (OPTICAL)

12

Shelby and Data are examining exposed rock strata with their tricorders as Riker and Geordi MATERIALIZE.

SHELBY

Morning. Early bird gets the worm, eh? We've had some interesting results...

RIKER

(interrupting, burning)
Commander Shelby...
(he pauses, will not do this in front of the other officers)
Walk with me, Commander.

It is an order. She obeys. Geordi and Data exchange a look...

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

DATA

I believe Commander Shelby
erred... there are no known
avifaunal or crawling vermicular
lifeforms on Jouret Four.

*

GEORDI

That's... not what she meant,
Data... but, uh, you're right,
she erred...

On Data's reaction...

13

ANGLE - MOVING WITH RIKER AND SHELBY

13

SHELBY

(responding)

I'm sorry... I woke up early and
I saw a weather system was moving
in... it could have affected the
soil readings...

RIKER

So without any regard to the risk
of coming down alone...

SHELBY

Really, Commander... if we ran
into the Borg, two extra bodies
wouldn't've made a hell of a
difference, would they? We had
three hours before the storm front
hit, less than two hours now.
Data was available. I took him.
We came. I don't see your
problem...

RIKER

My problem, Commander, is I expect
to be notified before there's a
change in my orders...

SHELBY

(tight)

Noted for future reference. Do
you wish to hear my report, sir?

RIKER

Go ahead.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

SHELBY

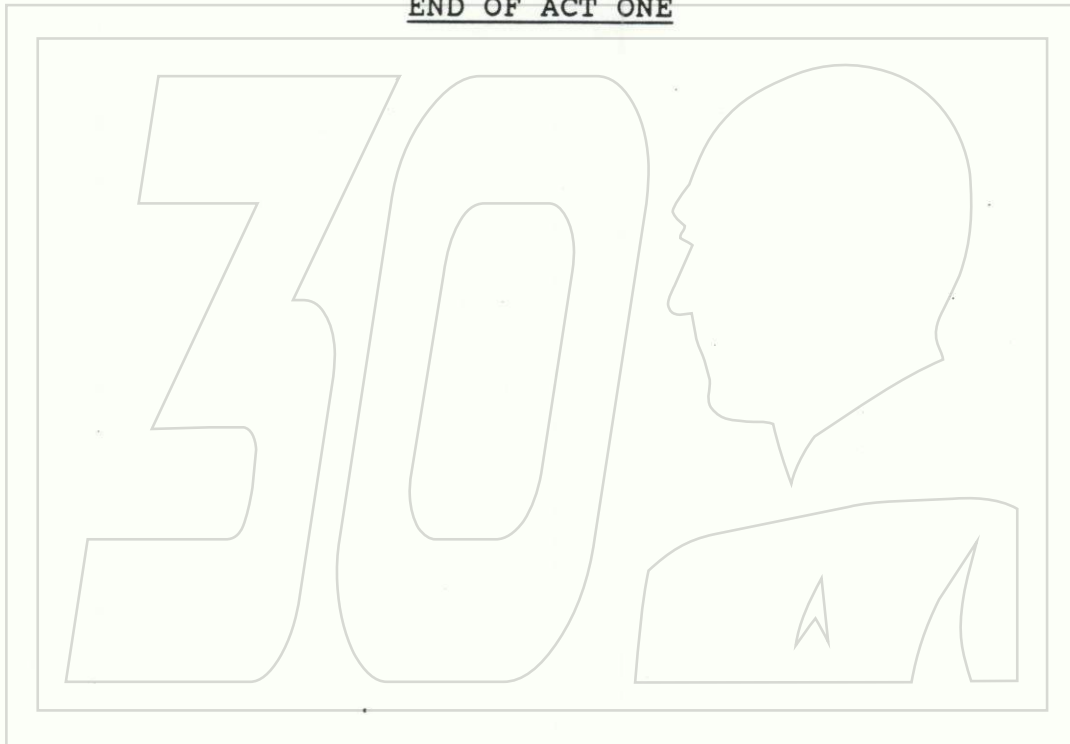
The soil contains the same
magnetic-resonance traces...
That's our footprint. There's
no doubt any more. It's the Borg.

*

On Riker's reaction...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE



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ACT TWO

FADE IN:

14 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL) 14

In orbit. The transport ship is gone.

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's log, Stardate 43998.5.
With confirmation of the Borg's
presence in Federation space,
Admiral Hanson has returned to
Starbase Three-Two-Four to discuss
strategy with Starfleet Command.
Lieutenant Commander Shelby
remains on board to continue
tactical preparations.

15 INT. CAPT. READY ROOM 15

Riker and Picard.

RIKER

...a standing yellow alert...
all Federation and allied outposts
have been warned... Ops will
continue to monitor long range
sensors... I've assigned Data,
La Forge and Mister Crusher to
work with Commander Shelby.

Picard nods... a beat.

PICARD

Very good, Number One. You've
covered all the bases. As usual.

(beat)

What's your impression of Shelby?

RIKER

She knows her stuff, Captain.

Picard notes a vague hesitation in his attitude.

PICARD

She has your full confidence...

RIKER

Well, I think she needs...
supervision.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

RIKER (Cont'd)

She takes the initiative a little too... easily. Sometimes with risks.

Picard nods, smiles slightly...

PICARD

Sounds a little like a young Lieutenant Commander I once recruited as my first officer.

RIKER

(returns smile)

Perhaps.

And all this is played with great warmth and personal connection...

PICARD

You're the best officer I've ever served with, Will.

Riker crinkles his forehead, nods, thanks.

PICARD

(most gentle)

But what are you still doing here?

RIKER

(reacts)

Sir?

PICARD

I hear you've been offered the Melbourne.

Riker acknowledges, believes the Captain will be pleased when he says --

RIKER

I've decided not to pursue the commission at this time.

*

But Picard surprises him by not showing pleasure, but rather discomfort with the decision.

PICARD

She's a fine ship, Will.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED: (2)

15

RIKER

She's not the Enterprise.

(beat)

With all due respect, sir, you
need me. Particularly now.

PICARD

Starfleet needs good Captains.
Particularly now. I cannot keep
you to myself forever.

Picard takes a long beat... this is most difficult.

PICARD

I want you to reconsider your
decision.

RIKER

(reacts)

Are you asking me to leave,
Captain?

PICARD

I'm asking you to look at your
career objectively and make the
best decision.

(beat)

I know it's hard to walk away.
But you're ready to work without
a net, my friend. You're ready
to make the life and death
decisions a Captain must make.
And, hard as it is to accept, if
you choose to leave, the
Enterprise will go on just fine
without you.

*

*

Riker looks hard at Picard and on that look...

15A INT. TEN FORWARD

15A

Troi and Riker at a table. Riker is troubled,
confused.

RIKER

What am I still doing here,
Deanna? I've pushed myself hard
to get this far...

(glancing at her)

...sacrificed a lot.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

15A CONTINUED:

15A

RIKER (Cont'd)

I've always said I wanted my own command. And yet something's holding me back. Is it wrong to want to stay...?

TROI

What do you think?

RIKER

(shakes his head,
doesn't know)

Maybe I'm just afraid of the big chair.

TROI

I don't think so.

RIKER

(unconvinced)

The Captain says Shelby reminds him of the way I used to be. And he's right. She comes in here, full of drive and ambition, impatient, taking risks... I look at her and I wonder whatever happened to those things in me? I liked those things in me.

(shakes his head)
I've lost something.

TROI

(suppressing a smile)

You mean you're older, more experienced... a little more seasoned...

RIKER

(grins)

'Seasoned'. What a horrible thing to say to a man.

TROI

I don't think you've lost a thing... and you've gained a lot more than you realize. You're much more comfortable with yourself than you used to be...

(CONTINUED)

15A CONTINUED: (2)

15A

RIKER

Maybe that's the problem. Could
be I'm too comfortable here.

TROI

I'm not sure I know what that
means.

(But I do know that...)
You're happy here... happier than
I've ever known you to be. It
really comes down to a simple
question -- what do you want, Will
Riker?

Riker laughs to himself.

TROI

What?

RIKER

Stupid. An old song I heard when
I was a kid. Keeps running
through my mind...

(off her look, he begins
to sing)

'Didja ever have the feeling that
you wanted to go... still had the
feeling that you wanted to stay...
You knew it was right... wasn't
wrong... still you knew you
wouldn't be very long... it's
tough to have the feeling that
you wanted to go...'

15B ANGLE - GUINAN

15B

moving by with a tray of drinks reacts as she hears
Riker...

RIKER

(continuing)

'...still had the feeling that
you wanted to stay... start to
go... change your mind...'

He stops as he realizes Guinan is looking at him...

GUINAN

You start on Friday -- two shows
a night, matinee on Wednesday.

(CONTINUED)

15B CONTINUED:

15B

RIKER
I play the trombone too...

She nods, and walks on...

16 INT. ENGINEERING - CLOSE ON MONITOR

16

shows an Okudagram, a graphic representation of the Borg ship...

SHELBY (O.C.)
...a manipulation effect in the Borg ship's subspace field... a definite pattern -- at four-point-eight minute intervals during your first confrontation with them.

17 ANGLE - AT THE POOL TABLE (OPTICAL)

17

Shelby, Riker, Geordi, Wesley, Data and three other supernumeraries, at least one other woman in the group. It's been a long day... fatigue is clear on all faces...

GEORDI
Might indicate high-output auxiliary generators kicking in.

SHELBY
(acknowledges)
One theory is that their systems are decentralized with redundant power sources located throughout the ship.

DATA
It is a reasonable conclusion. Borg technology has given each member of their society the ability to interface and function collectively. It is likely they would construct their ship with the same philosophy.

WESLEY
(shakes his head)
Knock out one generator and another takes over without interruption.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

RIKER

What kind of damage would we have
to do to shut them down...?

SHELBY

Projections suggest a Borg ship
like this one could continue to
function effectively even if
seventy-eight percent of it was
inoperable.

Reactions.

WESLEY

(grim)

And our best shot barely scratched
the surface.

Geordi in particular is stumped... moves to a monitor,
presses panels that put up several design schemes...

GEORDI

From what I've seen, I can't
believe any of your new weapons
systems can be ready in less than
eighteen months, Commander.

SHELBY

(acknowledges)

We've been projecting twenty-four.

RIKER

(looking at the designs)

Is there anything here we can try
to adapt to our current defense
systems...?

GEORDI

(studying them intently)

We'll have to look through the
specs again.

(sighs, tired)

I don't know. My mind's turned
to clay.

WESLEY

Mine too.

He inadvertently looks at Data... there's a beat of
visual humor - obviously Data's mind could run all
night. Shelby intends to push them until they fall...
moving to the computer, calling up specs...

(CONTINUED)

*
*

17 CONTINUED: (2)

17

SHELBY

I think we should look at
modifying the plasma phaser
design...

*
*
*

Riker notices the excessive fatigue on everyone's
faces...

RIKER

Commander, I think we should call
it a night.

A beat. Shelby reacts without eye contact... there's
a crisis, how can he think about breaking for the
night? She keeps on working at the computer... eyes
on the screen. Restrained --

SHELBY

All right. Anyone who's really
that tired... if you want to
leave...

Overlapping --

WESLEY

No, that's okay...

GEORDI

Go ahead, Commander...

SHELBY

(quickly back to work)
What would happen if we take the
frequency klystron from the
existing unit...

*

Riker interrupts, firm, but none of this ever gets loud
--

RIKER

We'll break here. That's an
order. We'll reconvene at Oh-
five hundred...

SHELBY

Sir, if you'll allow me to
continue with Mister Data, who
does not require rest...

RIKER

You need rest, Commander.

*

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: (3)

17

SHELBY

If we have a confrontation with
the Borg without improving our
defense systems...

RIKER

If we have a confrontation, I
don't want a crew fighting the
Borg at the same time they're
fighting their own fatigue...
Dismissed.

*

Their eyes meet in conflict. She EXITS.

18
thru
19

OMITTED

18
thru
19

20 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

20

In orbit.

21 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE (OPTICAL)

21

Picard, Riker, Shelby, Data, Geordi, Worf, Beverly.
On the monitor Admiral Hanson is addressing them.

HANSON (MONITOR)

At nineteen hundred hours
yesterday, the U.S.S. Lalo
departed Zeta Alpha Two on a
freight run to Sentinel Minor
Four. At twenty-two hundred hours
and twelve minutes, a distress
signal was received at starbase
one-five-seven. The Lalo reported
contact with an alien vessel...
(with emphasis)
...described as cube-shaped. The
distress signal ended abruptly.
She has not been heard from since.

Reactions.

PICARD

How long to get there at warp
nine, Mister Data?

DATA

One hour, seventeen minutes, sir.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

PICARD
Make it so.

Data acknowledges, rises and EXITS.

HANSON
We're coming with every available
starship to assist, Captain. But
the closest help is six days away.

PICARD
(dry)
We'll try to occupy them pending
your arrival, Admiral.

HANSON
I know you will. Hanson out.

RIKER
All hands will stand to battle
stations...

PICARD
Commander Shelby, status of
defense preparations?

SHELBY
Mister La Forge has a plan to
modulate shield nutation...
hopefully, that'll hold them off
for awhile.

GEORDI
At the same time, we're retuning
phasers to higher E-M-base
emitting frequencies -- we'll try
to disrupt their subspace field.

PICARD
Your assessment of our potential
effectiveness?

GEORDI
Shot in the dark, Captain. Best
we can do for now.

PICARD
(acknowledges)
Dismissed.

22 OMITTED

22

22A EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)
at warp.

22A

23 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

23

Picard, Riker, Worf, Data, Wesley at their positions...
Shelby is also on the Bridge...

WORF
Sir, reading an unidentified
vessel just entering sensor range,
bearing two-one-zero mark
one-five-one...

PICARD
Hail them, Mister Worf...

WORF
No response, sir...

PICARD
Move to intercept.

WORF
(beat, reacting to
console)
Sir, the vessel has already
changed course to intercept us.
Approaching at... warp nine point
three... Entering visual
range...

PICARD
On screen.

24 ANGLE - VIEW SCREEN (OPTICAL)

24

Long range... a small dot...

PICARD
Magnify.

The shot changes to a closer angle -- it is the Borg
ship.

PICARD
Mister Worf, dispatch a subspace
message to Admiral Hanson -- we
have engaged the Borg.

(CONTINUED)

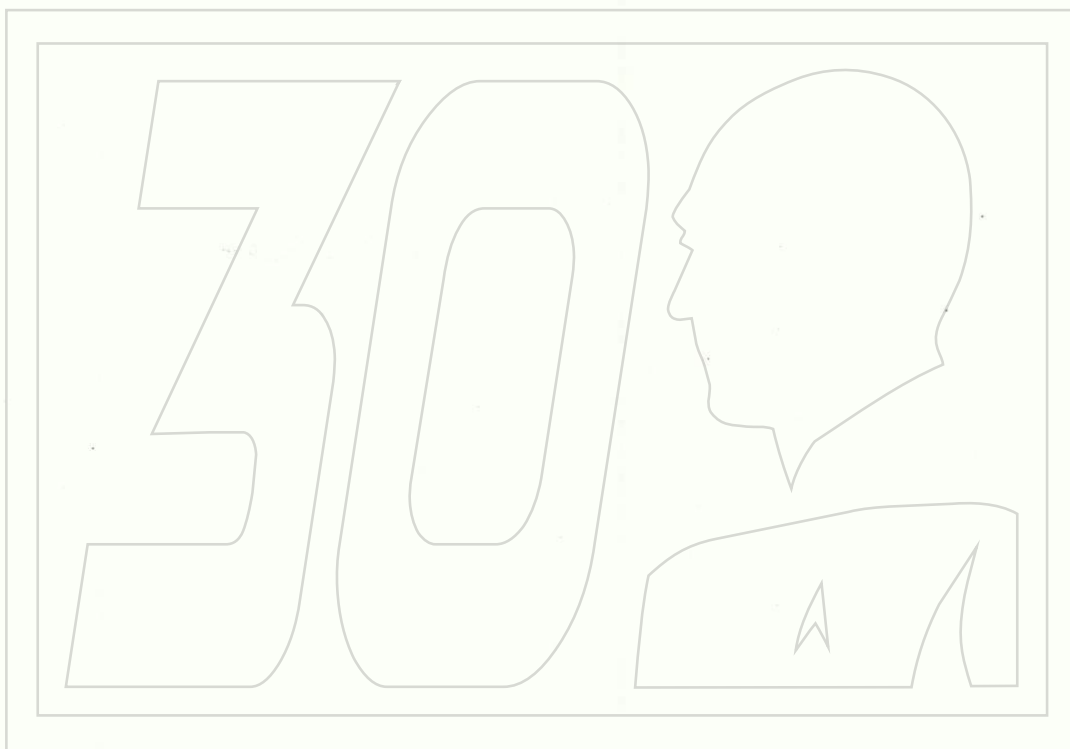
24 CONTINUED:

24

And on reactions...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO



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ACT THREE

FADE IN:

25 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

25

The Enterprise and the Borg ship face each other. Both ships have dropped out of warp.

26 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

26

We are now at Red Alert.

WORF
Captain, you are being hailed.

PICARD
I am?

WORF
Yes, Captain. By name.

RIKER
Data, is it the same ship we faced
at J-two-five?

DATA
Uncertain, Commander. However,
dimensions are precisely the same.

PICARD
On screen.

He takes a defiant pose. The interior of the Borg ship appears on the viewscreen -- a great chamber with stacks and stacks of thousands of slots in which are individual Borg.

PICARD
I am Jean Luc...

Speaking with a hundred voices --

BORG
Jean Luc Picard, Captain of the
Starship Enterprise, Registry
NCC-1701D, you will lower shields
and prepare to transport yourself
aboard our vessel. If you do not
cooperate, we will destroy your
ship.

*

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

26

Picard reacts, does not respond to the demand.

PICARD

You have committed acts of aggression against the United Federation of Planets. If you do not immediately withdraw...

BORG

You will surrender yourself or we will destroy your ship. Your defensive capabilities are unable to withstand us.

Riker signals Worf to mute transmission.

RIKER

(to Picard)

What the hell could they want with you?

SHELBY

I thought they weren't interested in human lifeforms... only our technology.

PICARD

Their priorities seem to have changed. Open channel.

(to the viewscreen)

We have developed new defense capabilities since our last meeting and we are prepared to use them if you do not withdraw from Federation space. If you do so immediately, I will agree to arrange a conference of our peoples at a neutral location.

27 INT. ENGINEERING

27

On Geordi taking readings...

GEORDI

(to comm)

Shields are being probed... I'm modulating nutation...

28 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

28

As the Borg ship sends out their tractor beam... the shields deflect it...

29 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

29

WORF

Sir, the Borg are attempting to lock on to us with their tractor beam...

PICARD

Load all torpedo bays... ready phasers... target coordinates on the source of the tractor beam...

RIKER

Status of shields...

DATA

Holding...

SHELBY

(encouraged)

The nutation modulation has them confused...

RIKER

(cautious)

They have the ability to analyze and adapt, Commander...

Suddenly the ship shakes violently...

INTERCUT:

29A INT. ENGINEERING

29A

Geordi scurrying around trying to make adjustments in vain...

GEORDI

Shield modulation has failed... they've locked on...

WORF

Shields are being drained... ninety per cent... eighty...

(CONTINUED)

29A CONTINUED:

29A

GEORDI
Trying to recalibrate nutation...
damn...

WORF
Shields have failed.

PICARD
Fire all weapons...

30 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

30

An extraordinary sequence... as the Enterprise is
grabbed by the tractor beam... we give them everything
we've got... the Borg ship takes full impact and still
the beam has us...

*

31 INT. ENGINEERING

31

GEORDI
Their subspace field is intact...
new phaser frequencies had no
impact...

*

32 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

32

RIKER
Reverse engines...

*

GEORDI
Full reverse... we're not
moving...

PICARD
Fire at will...

WORF
Launching torpedos... phaser
spread continuing...

*

*

DATA
Still no damage to the Borg
vessel, sir...

33 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

33

The second Borg beam reaches out to the Enterprise...

34 INT. ENGINEERING

34

A deafening crack of thunder... the ship shakes...
Geordi looks up...

COMPUTER VOICE
Warning. Outer hull breach.

*

INTERCUT:

35 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

35

36 INT. ENGINEERING

36

People running... the thunder continuing... on the move
--

WORF
They're cutting into the hull...
Engineering section...
RIKER
Geordi... evacuate Engineering...

GEORDI
Computer. Evacuation sequence...

COMPUTER VOICE
Redirecting Engineering control
to Bridge. Sealing doors to core
chamber...

GEORDI
Move it people!

The door is sliding down... and as he runs the hell out
of there...

COMPUTER VOICE
Warning. Inner hull failing.
Decompression danger, deck
thirty-six, section four.
Sealing Main Engineering.

*
*
*

36A OMITTED

36A

37 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

37

SHELBY
Data, fluctuate phaser resonance
frequencies... random settings...
keep changing them... don't give
them time to adapt...

38 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

38

The Enterprise fires another furious round... this time
with fluctuating laser frequencies... unlike our usual.
Unbroken beam, the beam is divided into 'dots and
dashes' with slight color changes... and finally the
Borg tractor breaks off...

38A INT. MAIN BRIDGE

38A

The ship shakes with the release.

WORF
The tractor beam has been
released.

PICARD
Warp nine. Course one-five-one
mark three-three-zero... engage...

39 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

39

warps away... the Borg ship follows quickly...

40 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

40

WORF
They are in pursuit, Captain.

PICARD
Maintain course.

Geordi ENTERS from the Turbolift...

RIKER
Damage report, Geordi.

GEORDI
(still in shock)
Hull rupture in Main
Engineering... damage is heavy...
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED:

40

GEORDI (Cont'd)
We lost a lot of good people down
there.

DATA
Eleven dead... eight more
unaccounted for, Captain.

Moving to the Engineering station, taking readings...

RIKER
(to com)
Repair teams to Engineering...
seal hull breach...

GEORDI
They didn't get to the core...
I can control functions from
here...

WESLEY
Approaching the Paulson Nebula,
sir...

PICARD
Drop to impulse... take us in,
Ensign...

41 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

41

Moving at impulse into the solar nebula, swirling
clouds...

*

42 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - INCLUDE MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL)
as we whiz by large rocks and clumpy material...

42

43 ANGLE - WESLEY

43

drawing on all of his navigational talents... Picard
moves up next to him...

WESLEY
The field is getting too dense,
sir...

PICARD
Steady... Mister Data, analysis
of the nebula cloud...

*

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED:

43

DATA

Eighty-two percent Dilithium
hydroxyls... manganese, chromium.
It should provide an effective
screen against their sensors,
sir...

*

44 PICARD

44

PICARD

Prepare to take us in, Mister
Crusher. Now. Mister La Forge,
prepare to reverse engines, full
stop.

*
*

45 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

45

The Enterprise moves into the spiral cloud and
disappearing from view.

*

45A EXT. SPACE - THE BORG (OPTICAL)

45A

slows at the cloud's periphery, does not go in.

*
*

46 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

46

WORF

The Borg ship is continuing
scans... attempting to locate
us...

PICARD

Good. As long as they're looking
for us... they can't hurt anyone
else.

RIKER

Shut down all active sensors,
passive scanners only. Deflectors
to minimum emissions.

*
*
*

PICARD

We'll maintain position.
(looks at Riker and
Shelby)
Until we have a better idea.

47 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL) 47
Barely visible through the dense cloud.

48 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE - CLOSE ON MONITOR (OPTICAL) 48
Showing a silent replay of the Borg ship as seen from
the Enterprise...

SHELBY (O.C.)
Time index five-one-four... Data
started to fluctuate phaser
resonance frequencies... the
Borg's beam breaks contact...
Freeze picture.

49 ANGLE 49
Riker is at the head of the table, Wesley, Geordi and
Data are with Shelby. They are reporting progress to
him.

SHELBY
Take a close look, Commander...
Mister La Forge?
(please narrate)

50 MONITOR - FREEZE FRAME (OPTICAL) 50
The same shot in slow motion... there is a slight
wobble in the entire Borg power system.

GEORDI (O.C.)
There's a two percent power drop,
just for an instant... but it's
system-wide... The phaser
frequency spread was in a high
narrow band.

51 ANGLE - WIDE 51

DATA
Conceivably, the ship's power
distribution nodes are vulnerable
to those frequencies.

(CONTINUED)

*
*

51 CONTINUED:

51

GEORDI

If we can generate a concentrated burst of energy with that same frequency distribution... I mean a lot more than anything our phasers or photon torpedos could provide...

*
*

RIKER

How do we do that?

WESLEY

The main deflector dish.

*

GEORDI

It's the only component of the Enterprise designed to channel that much power at controlled frequencies.

*

SHELBY

Unfortunately, there is one slight detail -- in the process, the blast completely destroys the Enterprise as well.

*

RIKER

(muses)

But if we could get far enough away... increase the deflector range...

*
*

SHELBY

(nods)

It could work. In the meantime, we should retune all phasers, including hand units, to the same frequency.

RIKER

(acknowledges)

Proceed. I'll inform the Captain...

SHELBY

There's one other recommendation I'd like to make, Commander. Separate the saucer section... assign a skeleton crew to create a diversion...

(CONTINUED)

51 CONTINUED: (2)

51

RIKER
(shakes his head)
We may need power from the saucer
impulse engines...

*

SHELBY
But it would give them more than
one target to worry about.

RIKER
(beat)
No, it's too great a risk...

SHELBY
I'd like the Captain to make that
decision, sir.

RIKER
(cool)
I bring all alternatives to the
Captain's attention, Commander.
(dismissing them)
That'll be all.

As the others EXIT, Geordi lingers a moment...

GEORDI
I'll need to install
higher-capacity power transfers
to the deflector dish,
Commander...

RIKER
How long...

GEORDI
Better part of a day.

Riker acknowledges, stands, still bristling about
Shelby...

RIKER
She gets a full head of steam up,
doesn't she...

GEORDI
Yessir... she's... a formidable
presence to say the least. But
I'm convinced she can help us
here, Commander...

(CONTINUED)

51 CONTINUED: (3)

51

RIKER
I am too, Geordi. Don't worry
about it. I can handle Shelby.

Riker nods and they EXIT.

52 INT. BRIDGE

52

Riker walks to the Ready Room door and rings the
chime... Worf in command.

53 ANGLE - THE DOOR

53

slides open and as Riker steps forward, he reacts as
he sees Shelby with Picard.

54 INT. CAPT. READY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

54

PICARD'S VOICE
Come.

PICARD
Come in, Number One... Commander
Shelby was just telling me of your
concerns about her plan...

RIKER
I'm sorry that she troubled you,
sir... I already informed her...

PICARD
Yes, I entirely agree with you.
It's not the time. But I am
afraid the time may eventually
come when greater risks are
required. I'd like you to
consider her plan as a fall-back
position and make the necessary
preparations.

RIKER
Very good, sir.

55 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

55 *

Riker and Shelby EXIT the Ready Room and you can cut
the tension with a knife... she moves to the Turbolift
and he's on her heels.

56 INT. TURBOLIFT

56

As they ENTER...

SHELBY
Deck Eight. Battle Bridge.

The doors close. Shelby avoids his eyes. No guilt from her. Just unstoppable.

RIKER
(to comm)
Halt.
(to Shelby)
You and I have to talk, Commander.

SHELBY
You never ordered me not to discuss this with the Captain...

RIKER
You disagree with me, fine. You want to take it to the Captain, fine. Through me. You do an end run around me again, I'll snap you back so hard, you'll think you're a first year cadet again.

SHELBY
May I speak frankly, sir.

RIKER
By all means.

SHELBY
You're in my way.

RIKER
Really. How terrible for you.

SHELBY
All you know how to do is play it safe... I guess that's why someone like you sits in the shadow of a great man for as long as you have, passing up one command after another.
(to comm)
Proceed to Deck Eight.

RIKER
When it comes to this ship, to this crew, you're damned right I'll play it safe.

(CONTINUED)

56 CONTINUED:

56

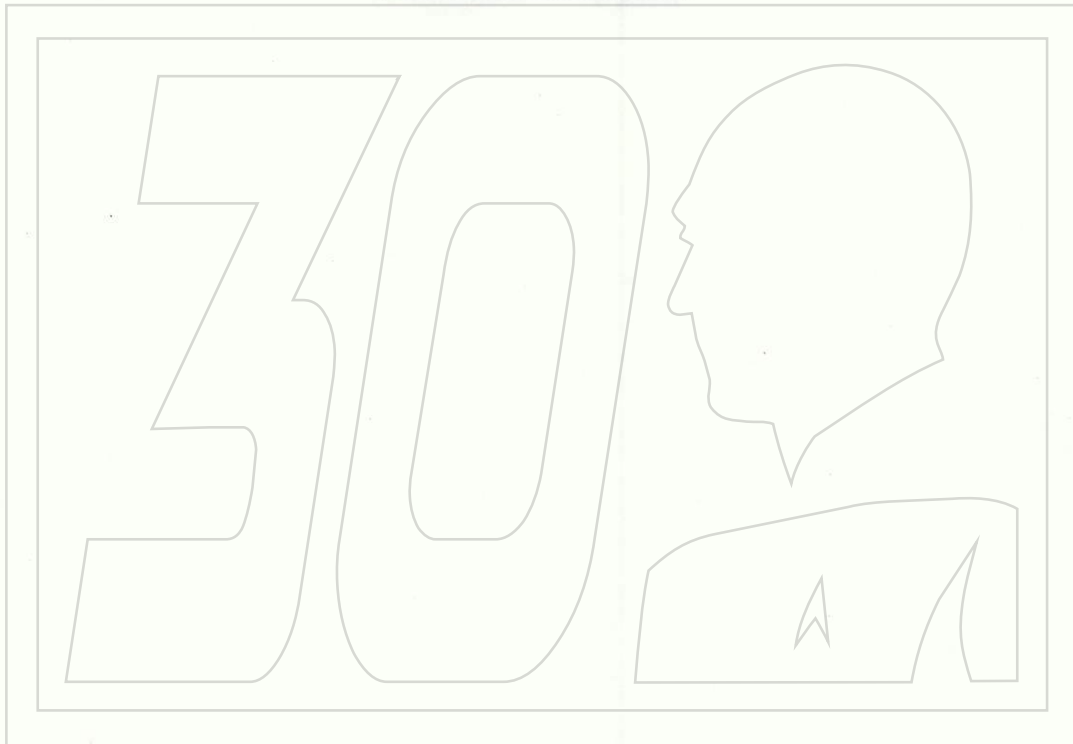
SHELBY

If you can't make the big
decisions, Commander, I suggest
you make room for someone who can.

The door opens and she EXITS. On Riker's reaction...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE



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ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

57 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

57

hiding in the dust cloud in the nebula... moving back to find the Borg ship hovering over the swirl.

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's log, supplemental. The Enterprise remains concealed in the dust cloud. And to my surprise, the Borg have maintained their position, waiting for us to come out of hiding. I have no explanation for their special interest in me or this ship.

57A INT. ENGINEERING

57A

Much activity. Repairs are continuing... supernumeraries working at the last patches in the breach area... at consoles, Geordi, Wesley, Shelby and Data huddle and compare notes... as Picard ENTERS, taking a slow, respectful inspection. The crew members look up to acknowledge Picard, who just nods, 'carry-on' as he passes through...

PICARD (V.O.)

We continue to prepare our defenses for the inevitable confrontation. But, I must admit, on this night I contemplate the distinct possibility that no defense may be adequate against this enemy...

57B INT. TEN FORWARD (OPTICAL)

57B

Dark and deserted. The view out the windows blinded by the nebula fog. Picard ENTERS, walking slowly... takes a long look...

GUINAN (O.C.)

Trouble sleeping?

Picard turns...

57C ANGLE - GUINAN

57C

at the bar

PICARD
Something of a tradition,
Guinan... touring the ship before
a battle...

GUINAN
Before a hopeless battle, if I
remember the tradition correctly.

Picard moves to the bar.

PICARD
Not necessarily. Nelson toured
the HMS Victory before
Trafalgar...

GUINAN
But Nelson didn't come home from
Trafalgar, did he?

PICARD
No, but the battle was won.

GUINAN
And you, Picard, do you expect
this battle to be won?

PICARD
We may yet prevail. It is a
conceit but a healthy one.

(beat)
I wonder if the Emperor Honorius
watching the Visigoths coming over
the seventh hill could truly
realize that the Roman Empire was
about to fall. This is really
just another page of history,
isn't it? Will this be the end
of our civilization?

(shrugs)
...Turn the page.

GUINAN
It is not the end.

PICARD
You say that with remarkable
assuredness.

(CONTINUED)

*

57C CONTINUED:

57C

GUINAN

With experience. When the Borg
destroyed my world, my people
scattered throughout the
universe. But we survived. And
so will humanity. As long as
there is a handful left to keep
the spirit alive. You will
prevail. Even if it takes a
millenium.

*
*
*
*

Picard nods with appreciation for her... and then the
ship shakes and they react, turn to see --

57D ANGLE - THE WINDOWS (OPTICAL)

57D

somewhere beyond the fog, bright explosions are
visible...

WORF'S COM VOICE

Captain Picard, report to the
Bridge.

On the move...

PICARD

(keys insignia)

On my way, Lieutenant.

And EXITS.

58 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

58

Picard ENTERS... Riker, Worf watch the viewscreen as
the explosions continue periodically. Supernumeraries
at conn and ops.

RIKER

They're some kind of
magnetometric-guided charges.

*

As one 'depth charge' explodes perilously close by...

PICARD

Status of shields.

WORF

Back to forty-eight percent,
Captain.

(CONTINUED)

58 CONTINUED:

58

PICARD
(to comm)
Mister La Forge, I may have to
take us out of the nebula... I'll
need all the power you can give
me.

Another huge explosion rattles us...

59 INT. ENGINEERING

59

Data, Wes, Shelby working at stations in the
background.

GEORDI
Engines are ready, Captain.
Recommend you adjust shield
harmonics to favor the upper EM
band when you proceed...

PICARD'S COM VOICE
Acknowledged.

And this time a direct hit...

60 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

60

WORF
Direct hit... Deck Nine...

RIKER
Damage report...

WORF
Structural latching system
integrity breached...

PICARD
Take us out of here, Number One...

RIKER
Fire up the engines... half
impulse until we clear the
nebula... then punch it to warp
nine.

PICARD
Ready phasers... load forward
torpedo bays...

RIKER
Engage.

*

*

61 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL) 61

moves out of the cloud... immediately the Borg ship follows...

62 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL) 62

WORF

Borg tractor beam is attempting to lock on...

*

PICARD

Fire at will. Continue rotating shield frequ...

*

WORF

Shields are failing...

The ship is rocked as the tractor beam locks on... people are almost knocked down...

WORF

Tractor beam has locked on.

RIKER

They're holding us...

A Borg MATERIALIZES...

Borg#1 looks around, identifies Picard, moves calmly toward him... Worf fires his phaser... the Borg's force field is ineffective... it breaks down and the Borg is blown down... immediately two more Borg MATERIALIZE... one by the fallen Borg, another behind Picard... Worf fires at the Borg (#2) near Picard. But this time the Borg's force field has changed color and repels the phasers...

*

*

*

*

RIKER

It's no use... they've already adapted to the new frequencies...

Riker charges Borg#2 going for Picard but the Borg easily sends Riker crashing against a far wall, and grabs Picard. Worf moves toward Picard as...

*

*

*

62A OMITTED

62A

*

62B BORG #3

62B

removes parts of the dead Borg#1...

62C ANGLE - PICARD (OPTICAL)

62C

Worf reaches him just as he DEMATERIALIZES along with Borg#2 and Borg#3... a beat later, dead Borg#1 withers away into dust... and...

62D Worf

62D

quickly moves back to tactical...

Worf

The Borg ship is disengaging...
leaving at warp speed...

Riker

(to conn)
Maintain pursuit...

Worf

Borg vessel has reached warp
nine... nine-point-four...
nine-point-six...

Riker

Stay with them.
(to comm)
Riker to O'Brien. Can you get
a fix on the Captain?

O'BRIEN'S COM VOICE

Negative, sir. There's some kind
of interference. I can't lock
in on his signal.

Riker

Senior officers report to the
Bridge.

Worf

Sir, the coordinates they've
set... they're on a direct
course... to sector zero-zero-one.
The terran system.

Riker

(reacts)
Earth.

On Riker's reaction...

63 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

63

in pursuit of the Borg ship.

64 INT. BORG SHIP

64

Picard is escorted by two Borgs... he reacts as he sees
--

65 OMITTED

65

66 INT. BORG SHIP (MATTE SHOT)

66

The same massive chamber we saw on the main viewer
earlier... thousands of Borg lined up... as Picard
ENTERS. They speak with a thousand deafening voices:

BORG

Captain Jean Luc Picard, you lead
the strongest ship of the
Federation Starfleet. You speak
for your people.

PICARD

I have nothing to say to you, and
I will resist you with my last
ounce of strength.

BORG

Strength is irrelevant.
Resistance is futile. We wish to
improve ourselves. We will add
your biological and technological
distinctiveness to our own. Your
culture will adapt to service ours.

PICARD

Impossible. My culture is based
on freedom and self-determination.

BORG

Freedom is irrelevant. Self-
determination is irrelevant. You
must comply.

PICARD

We would rather die.

BORG

Death is irrelevant.

(CONTINUED)

66 CONTINUED:

66

PICARD

What is it you wish of me?

BORG

Your archaic cultures are authority driven. To facilitate our introduction into your societies, it has been decided that a human voice will speak for us in all communications. You have been chosen to be that voice.

*
*

On Picard's reaction...

67 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL) 67
in pursuit of the Borg vessel.

68 INT. MAIN BRIDGE 68

Riker, Shelby, Geordi, Data, Troi, Worf, Beverly, Wesley. Supernumeraries are at conn and ops.

WORF

They're leading us into the heart of our own defenses...

GEORDI

So far, they haven't had any reason to worry about our defenses...

WESLEY

Commander, if the Borg stay at warp nine-point-six, we'll be forced to discontinue pursuit and power down in less than three hours.

*

DATA

Two hours, forty minutes and three seconds.

RIKER

(to Geordi)

How soon before the deflector is ready?

(CONTINUED)

68 CONTINUED:

68

GEORDI

We're close. Few hours maybe...
(before Riker has to
tell him)

I know I'll get it done in two...
somehow... but Commander, I need
serious power from the warp
engines to make this weapon work.
We're using all we've got just
to keep up with them...

SHELBY

We've got to get that ship down
to impulse.

RIKER

I'm leading an Away Team over
there to get the Captain back.
We'll find a way to bring them
out of warp...

(orders)

Ensign Crusher... continue to
assist Mister La Forge...
Commander Shelby, you will take
the Bridge and coordinate with
Starfleet... Data, Worf, Doctor
Crusher, you're with me...

SHELBY

(protesting)

Excuse me, sir... with my
knowledge of the Borg...

RIKER

(not now)

Those are my orders, Commander.

Shelby blinks. Troi fills the breach.

TROI

Commander Riker...

(beat)

It is inappropriate for you to
lead the Away Team. Until the
return of Captain Picard, you are
in command of the Enterprise.
We are in a state of war. Your
place is on the Bridge.

(CONTINUED)

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*

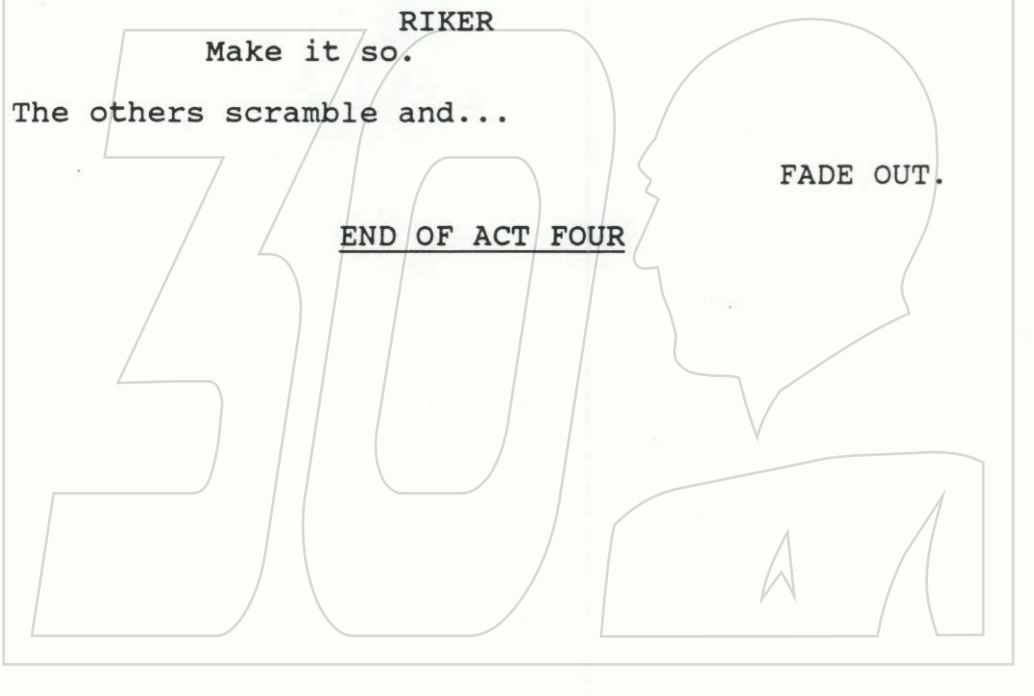
68 CONTINUED: (2)

68

Riker frowns... every bit of his soul wants to lead the charge to the rescue... and suddenly he feels what it takes to command... to delegate authority, to think of the greater needs... but it's frustrating as hell.

RIKER
(softer)
Commander Shelby, you will lead
the Away Team.

And he sinks into the big chair...



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ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

69 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

69

Still at warp... pursuing the Borg ship.

RIKER (V.O.)

First officer's log, supplemental.
Our pursuit of the Borg continues
at high warp on a course that
will take us to the very core of
the Federation. The devastation
they could bring is beyond
imagination.

70 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

70

Shelby, Data and Beverly wait with O'Brien as Worf
arrives, hands out phasers...

WORF

These phasers have been retuned.
Each has a different frequency
spanning the upper E-M band.

SHELBY

All right... a reminder... we only
get to use each of these once,
maybe twice before the Borg learn
to adapt. Don't fire until you
have to...

BEVERLY

What kind of resistance can we
expect?

(Beverly wasn't around for the Borg last year.)

DATA

At our last encounter, the Borg
virtually ignored us when we
beamed aboard their vessel,
doctor. They clearly did not
consider our being there a
threat.

SHELBY

That could very well change,
however, if we start interfering
with their plans.

(CONTINUED)

70 CONTINUED:

70

They move to the Transporter...

SHELBY
Shelby to Bridge. Away team
ready.

INTERCUT:

71 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

71

Riker, Troi and supernumeraries.

RIKER
(to Comm)
We've got fifty eight minutes
before we have to power down and
disengage.

SHELBY
Understood.

RIKER
Proceed.
(quick)
Commander, no unnecessary risks.
If it becomes clear you can't
succeed, I want you back here,
alive... I don't want any dead
heroes. Clear?

SHELBY
Very clear, sir. Shelby out.

O'BRIEN
We've matched warp velocity for
transport, Commander.

SHELBY
Energize.

72 INT. BORG SHIP (OPTICAL)

72

Shelby, Data, Worf and Beverly MATERIALIZE...

73 CLOSER

73

assume a defensive posture. There is no resistance.
Many of the Borg are in stasis. Occasionally, one
walks by and ignores the Away Team.

(CONTINUED)

73 CONTINUED:

73

WORF
(checking tricorder)
Tricorder functions are minimal.

SHELBY
Any signs of human life?

WORF
Inconclusive.

He continues to make adjustments on the tricorder.
Beverly gets her first look at the Borg up close and
personal... studying the gridwork structures...

BEVERLY
(awe)
Look at this... this is
extraordinary.

DATA
(acknowledges)
These appear to be some kind of
power waveguide conduits which
allow them to work collectively
as they perform ship functions.

SHELBY
There's no way to take out enough
of these to slow them down.

DATA
(agreeing)
The decentralized power system
makes it virtually impossible.

Cautiously moving forward...

BEVERLY
(studying the
configuration)
What about looking at it... from
the mosquito's point of view.

DATA
(puzzled)
An interesting metaphor, doctor.
What is your idea?

BEVERLY
If we sting them in a tender
spot... at least we might get them
to stop a minute to scratch.

(CONTINUED)

73 CONTINUED: (2)

73

Data and Shelby exchange a glance... not a bad plan.
As they move into an intersection to see the awesome
conduit box...

DATA
Distribution nodes.

SHELBY
If we take out a few of these,
it just might make them scratch...

*

Data acknowledges as Worf picks up something on his
tricorder.

WORF
The Captain's communicator...
it is still activated.

*
*

BEVERLY
(keying insignia)
Crusher to Picard, can you hear
me, Captain...

No response.

SHELBY
Can you locate it, Worf?

*

WORF
(checking)
This way...

He leads them down a corridor...

73A INT. READY ROOM (OPTICAL)

73A

Admiral Hanson on the monitor... Riker notably
standing, not sitting in the Captain's chair...

RIKER
I strongly recommend redeploying
all available defenses to protect
sector zero-zero-one, Admiral...

*

HANSON
(acknowledges)
We're moving to intercept at Wolf
Three-Five-Nine. We'll make our
stand there. How much longer can
you maintain pursuit?

(CONTINUED)

73A CONTINUED:

73A

RIKER

Twenty-two minutes if they stay
at current speed. If we can't
bring them out of warp, we'll
do as much damage as we can before
we have to disengage.

*

HANSON

(nods)

Picard?

RIKER

Nothing yet, sir.

74

OMITTED

74

74A

INT. BORG SHIP

74A

Down another corridor, Worf leading the way with his
tricorder... he stops... a series of large drawers line
one wall... it might almost remind us of a morgue...

WORF

In here.

An exchange of concerned glances... Data moves forward
and pulls out the heavy drawer... they react as they
see inside --

75

ANGLE -- PICARD'S UNIFORM

75

folded neatly, the communicator is visible. His empty
boots.

75A RESUME - SHELBY

75A

SHELBY

Shelby to Enterprise.

RIKER'S COM VOICE

Go ahead.

SHELBY

We've found the Captain's uniform.
And his communicator.

75B INT. MAIN BRIDGE

75B

Riker frowns... exchanges a worried look with Troi...

SHELBY'S COM VOICE
We're resuming our search.

Behind him Wesley and Geordi ENTER from the
Turbolift... as Riker sees them --

*

RIKER
(to comm)
Stand by, Commander.

WESLEY
We're in business.

GEORDI
It'll burn out the main
deflector... but it'll be one hell
of a bang.

RIKER
Radiation danger?

WESLEY
We'll need to evacuate the entire
forward half of the secondary
hull. And the lower three decks
of the saucer.

TROI
I'll see to that.

She moves off the Bridge.

RIKER
(to comm)
Commander Shelby... we have only
seventeen minutes of warp power
left. Do what you can to get
them out of warp.

*
*

75C INT. BORG SHIP (OPTICAL)

75C

The Away Team continues to move cautiously into an
intersection.

(CONTINUED)

75C CONTINUED:

75C

SHELBY
 (to comm)
 Acknowledged. Shelby out.
 (to the team)
 Let's take out some of these
 distribution nodes and see what
 happens...
 (beat)
 Get ready. This may rile up our
 friends.

Data fires his phaser at the top of the conduit box...
 nothing... then Worf and Data fire together... this
 time, the conduit box shorts out and sparks fly...
 they move quickly out...

*
 *
 *

76

INT. BORG SHIP

76

The Borg are stirring.

77
 thru
 79

OMITTED

77
 thru
 79

80

ANGLE - THE AWAY TEAM

80

reacts as the Borg begin to exit their shelves... as
 many as we can muster... they see our guys... and move
 calmly toward them... we retreat...

80A

INTO ANOTHER INTERSECTION (OPTICAL)

80A

and Worf and Data shoot out another conduit box... more
 sparks...

81

ANGLE (OPTICAL)

81

As more Borgs exit their shelves... see us... come at
 us...

SHELBY
 Ready phasers...

They raise their weapons... the Borg move in on them...

SHELBY
 Fire.

Shelby and Data fire one direction... Worf and Beverly
 the other...

82 ONE SET OF BORGS (OPTICAL) 82
go down...

83 ANOTHER SET OF BORGS (OPTICAL) 83
go down... but more come right behind, climbing over
them...

84 THE AWAY TEAM (OPTICAL) 84
moves down a clear corridor...

SHELBY
Enterprise, encountering
resistance, prepare to beam us
back on my signal...

...into another intersection... Data and Worf fire
and destroy a third conduit box. *

85 thru 87 OMITTED 85 thru 87

88 INT. BORG SHIP 88
A portion of the lights fail...

89 THE AWAY TEAM (OPTICAL) 89
is cloaked in shadows... the sparks creating almost a
strobe effect...

89A ANGLE - MORE BORGS (OPTICAL) 89A
coming... the Away Team fire phasers... the Borg have
adapted... none of the phasers affect them this time...
we retreat again.

SHELBY
Enterprise... beam us...

WORF
Wait! Look --

He points... and

90 thru 92 OMITTED 90 thru 92

93 ANGLE - ANOTHER ROW OF BORGS EMERGING FROM THEIR 93
 SLOTS

in the strobe effect... and one of them at the far
end... is Picard... seen in profile, he looks normal.

94 THE AWAY TEAM 94

 WORF
 Captain!

95 PICARD 95

turns slowly, calmly... and push in as he does to see
he has been turned into a Borg. Half his face is
gone... replaced with machinery.

96 REACTIONS - CLOSEUPS 96

of the Away Team... stunned.

97 PICARD 97

moves toward them... with the Borg as they surround...

98 THE AWAY TEAM (OPTICAL) 98

Worf bursts forward trying to get to his Captain...
is repelled violently by a Borg aura around Picard...
falls to the floor.

*
*
*

 SHELBY
 Enterprise, get us out of here.

As sparking effects continue from the damage to the
distribution nodes, they DEMATERIALIZE.

99 INT. MAIN BRIDGE 99

Riker, Troi, Wes at Conn... Geordi at Engineering
station.

 WESLEY
 Sir, they did it... the Borg ship
 is dropping out of warp...

 RIKER
 Go to impulse.

(CONTINUED)

99 CONTINUED:

99

GEORDI
Diverting warp energy to main
deflector...

RIKER
Move us to within forty thousand
kilometers, match velocity.
Commence arming sequence...
Increase deflector modulation to
upper frequency band...

*
*
*
*

The Away Team ENTERS from the Turbolift... Worf moves
to Tactical...

RIKER
The Captain?

DATA
Sir, Captain Picard has been
altered by the Borg. We were
unable to retrieve him...

RIKER
Altered...?

WORF
He is a Borg, sir.

Riker reacts, stunned.

SHELBY
We'll go back... I need more
people... we need to retune the
phasers again... we'll get him
out of there...

GEORDI
Commander, reading subspace field
fluctuations within the Borg ship.
Looks like they're regenerating...
restoring power. They could be
capable of warp any minute.

Riker's mind working... covering the options...

RIKER
Is the deflector ready?

GEORDI
(registering import of
the pending decision)
Ready, sir.

(CONTINUED)

99 CONTINUED: (2)

99

BEVERLY

Will, he's alive... if we get him
back, I might be able to
restore...

Push in to Riker...

RIKER

This is our only chance to destroy
them... if they get back into warp,
our weapon becomes useless.

*
*

SHELBY

We'll go back... we'll sabotage
them again if we have to...

RIKER

(shakes his head)
We can't maintain pursuit. We
don't have the power.

(beat)

Prepare to fire.

SHELBY

At least consult with Starfleet
Command.

(to Worf)

Get Admiral Hanson on subspace...

*

RIKER

Belay that order, Lieutenant.
There's no time...

WORF

Sir, we are being hailed by the
Borg...

RIKER

On screen.

100
thru
101

OMITTED

100
thru
101

102 ANGLE (OPTICAL) - VIEWSCREEN

102

Picard-Borg appears... he speaks with a single but
metallic Borg voice... a version of his own... and
during the speech we

INTERCUT:

103 MATCHING PUSHES TO CLOSEUPS OF RIKER AND PICARD
(OPTICAL)

103

*

PICARD/BORG
I am Locutus of Borg. Resistance
is futile. Your life as it has
been is over. From this time
forward, you will service... us.

And on an extreme closeup of Riker... a deep breath,
then firm without raising his voice...

RIKER
Mister Worf... fire.

SUPER: TO BE CONTINUED

FREEZE FRAME

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END

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